

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05

ACDA-12 AGRE-00 /125 W

-----100166 210628Z /17

R 191215Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4243

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0769

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, GV, MO, AG

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-GUINEAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: MUTUAL LOVE-FEAST BETWEEN MONARCHICAL MOROCCO AND SOCIALIST GUINEA DURING EARLY APRIL HAS BEEN AT EXPENSE OF ALGERIA AND, LESS DIRECTLY, AFRICA'S RADICAL BLOC. WHILE GUINEA IS NOT EXPECTED TO DEPART COMPLETELY FROM NEUTRALITY ON THE SAHARA QUESTION, SHE IS TILTING MORE TOWARD MOROCCO THAN BEFORE, IN PART BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES THAT COOPERATION WITH RABAT PROMISES. WE SEE THIS AS CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPLEMENT TO SEKOU TOURE'S ECONOMIC OPENING TO WEST AND MORE AUTHENTIC NON-ALIGNMENT. HOWEVER, ALGERIA IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT INVESTOR IN GUINEA'S FUTURE, AND WE WOULD EXPECT GUINEA TO GET BACK EVENTUALLY TO SOME BALANCE BETWEEN ALGIERS AND RABAT IN SPITE OF

THE LATTER'S CLEAR RECENT GAINS. END SUMMARY.

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1. AIR MOROCCO'S INAUGURAL FLIGHT ARRIVED CONAKRY APRIL 3 BEARING LARGE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF LABOR AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM MORE THAN HALF-DOZEN OTHER MINISTRIES. DURING VISIT DELEGATION MET WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, HAD GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO

GUINEA, AND ENJOYED WARM EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES AT DIPLO-MATIC CORPS DINNER GIVEN BY MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR APRIL 5 AND ATTENDED BY EIGHT GOG MINISTERS. INAUGURAL FLIGHT RETURNED TO MOROCCO APRIL 7 BEARING MADAME ANDREE TOURE, PRESIDENT'S WIFE, FOR FOUR-DAY QUASI-STATE VISIT IN MOROCCO DURING WHICH WE UNDERSTAND SHE WAS RECEIVED BY HASSAN II AND WIDOW OF MOHAMED V.

2. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BELLARBI HAS TOLD US VERY WARM TONE OF SPEECHES AND VISITS' PROTOCOL REPRESENTS MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN GUINEAN-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. GUINEAN HOST, TRANSPORT MINISTER TOUMANY SANGARE, REFERRED IN TOAST TO MOROCCO AS "GOOD REGIME SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY BY PEOPLE, RESPECTING WILL OF PEOPLE, NOT LIKE SOME SO-CALLED DEMO-CRATIC STATES WHICH RESEMBLE MORE MEDIEVAL REGIMES." (FACES OF EAST GERMAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS DROPPED VISIBLY AT THIS; ALGERIAN WAS ABSENT.) BELLARBI SAID TOURE'S PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH KING MOHAMED V AND KING HASSAN II HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN GOOD BUT ON SAHARAN ISSUE GOG HAD SUPPORTED CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND RELATIONS HAD BEEN IN SOMEWHAT DORMANT STATE. IN 1976 GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI WENT TO MOROCCO TO TRY TO MEDIATE SAHARAN PROBLEM. HASSAN II MAINTAINED THIS WAS INTERNAL MATTER BUT NEVERTHELESS WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS IT WITH SEKOU TOURE. BEAVOGUI THEN WENT TO ALGIERS BUT BOUMEDIENE MERELY SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE PROBLEM IN CONFIDENTIAL

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NEXT OAU MEETING. BELLARBI SAID TOURE HAD BEEN OFFENDED AT THIS AND SAID HE WOULD WASH HIS HANDS OF THE MATTER.

THIS WAS REFLECTED IN TOURE'S RESISTANCE TO ALGERIAN PRESSURE FOR SUPPORT ON THE SAHARA AND IN TOURE'S MARCH 23, 1978 FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH (CONAKRY 0608) IN WHICH -- IN BELLARBI'S VIEW -- TOURE IMPLIED SAHARAN TERRITORY MIGHT AS WELL BELONG TO MOROCCO, ALTHOUGH HE STILL MADE REFERENCE TO SELF-DETERMINATION. GUINEAN PARTY JOURNAL'S SIMULTANEOUS BLAST AT ALGERIA MOVED TOURE STILL CLOSER TO MOROCCO. HASSAN II IS ANXIOUS TO CONSOLIDATE THIS OPENING, AND THE LARGE, HIGH-LEVEL MOROCCAN DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT (ABOVE) WAS DESIGNED TO DO THAT.

3. AIR AGREEMENT IN EFFECT APRIL 3 BETWEEN MOROCCO AND GUINEAN PROVIDES FOR ONCE-WEEKLY FLIGHT BY AIR MOROCCO BETWEEN CASABLANCA AND CONAKRY. BELLARBI STATES AGREEMENT CONTAINS NO RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR AIR GUINEA TO FLY TO MOROCCO, BUT GOM HAS OFFERED TO TRAIN AIR GUINEA PERSONNEL IN ALL PHASES OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION. THIS WOULD INCLUDE BOEING 737 WHICH BELLARBI

UNDERSTANDS GOG HOPES TO ACQUIRE.

4. BELLARBI SAID GUINEANS ASKED MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF LANDING STRIPS AND HANGARS BUT THIS IS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR MOROCCO TO HANDLE. HE SAID THERE MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY OF THREE-WAY ARRANGEMENT ON PROJECTS LIKE THAT IF A PARTY SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA WOULD PICK UP TAB. GOM HAS ACCEPTED A LIST OF PROPOSED AID PROJECTS FROM GOG, WILL STUDY IT AND RESPOND IN MAY. BELLARBI SAID GOM INTENDS TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA PRINCIPALLY IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT. HE FORESAW ESTABLISHMENT OF MOROCCAN STATE-OWNED COMPANY IN GUINEA TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION, PREPARATION OF LAND FOR
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IRRIGATION, USE OF PUMPING STATIONS, ETC. MOROCCO WILL PROBABLY ALSO HELP WITH PILOT AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, E.G., FOR BEET SUGAR AND SPECIAL STRAINS OF WHEAT.

5. BELLARBI SAID MOROCCO ALSO WANTED TO MAKE A GESTURE OF SUPPORT ON THE GUINEAN DROUGHT. GOM HAD ASKED GUINEANS WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THE LATTER SEEMED HESITANT TO SAY. BELLARBI SAID MOROCCO MIGHT PROVIDE "10,000 OR 20,000" TONS OF RICE IF THAT APPEARED APPROPRIATE, BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION AS TO NEED OR HOW MUCH WAS ALREADY BEING SUPPLIED BY OTHERS. AMBASSADOR SUPPLIED HIM BASIC DATA AVAILABLE TO US ON THE SUBJECT APRIL 15. BELLARBI LEFT FOR MOROCCO APRIL 17 AND MAY BE PURSUING THE QUESTION THERE.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE INTENSE PRESSURE FROM ALGERIANS ON THE SAHARAN ISSUE, SEKOU TOURE APPEARS TO BE COMING OUT INCREASINGLY OPENLY ON MOROCCAN SIDE. LONGSTANDING PERSONAL TIES WITH MOHAMED V AND HASSAN II, BOUMEDIENE'S UNRESPONSIVE REACTION IN 1976, AND THE ALGERIAN ARTICLE IN JANUARY 1978 SHARPLY CRITICAL OF GUINEA HAVE ALL APPARENTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS. MOROCCANS ARE SEEKING TO CONSOLIDATE TOURE'S MOVEMENT IN THEIR FAVOR; WE SEE THIS AS A CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPLEMENT TO OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE TOURE'S OPENING TO THE WEST AND A MORE MODERATE, PRAGMATIC POLICY. PROJECTED MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPEARS APPROPRIATE, AS GOM SHOULD HAVE USEFUL COMPARABLE EXPERIENCE TO DRAW ON.
END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CONAKR00769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780170-0738
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780441/aaaabire.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 14928bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2923164
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN-GUINEAN RELATIONS SUMMARY: MUTUAL LOVE-FEAST BETWEEN MONARCHICAL MOROCCO AND SOCIALIST GUINEA DURING EARLY APRIL HAS BEEN A
TAGS: PEPR, GV, MO, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/14928bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014